



PARTY SUCCESS IN PERIL.

The New Revenue Law May Beat the Republicans in This State in 1900.

The Feeling Among All the People Against It Is an Intensely Bitter One.

And It Is Looked Upon as a Scheme to Help the Big Trusts,

And to Force the People of Moderate Means to Bear All the Burden.

As This Feeling Extends Into Every Illinois County Trouble Is Sure to Follow.

Many people believe that the new revenue law now in operation will wipe the Republican party out of existence in Illinois next year.

The turning loose of a horde of tax eaters who propose to confiscate property for the benefit of other tax eaters, is arousing resentment on every side.

The only beneficiaries of the law besides the Gas Trust and the Tax Eaters are the big downtown property owners, who always escape paying their just taxes.

Many Republican politicians are criticizing harshly the new revenue law and its operation. They declare that in districts where people of small means are in the majority the law is extremely unpopular. The politicians profess to fear that as the Republican party assumed responsibility and claimed credit for the law, the present feeling against it may result in loss of votes to the party at the next election. Already there is clamor in some sections for a modification of the law, and there is considerable gossip that pressure will be brought to bear on Gov. Tanner to induce him to call a special session of the General Assembly to eliminate what are considered the hardship-working provisions of the statute. The complaints come chiefly from wards like the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Seventeenth, Nineteenth and Twenty-ninth. It is charged that persons whose personal property is limited to the meager furnishings of small cottages or cheap flats have been served with tax schedules by the deputy assessors, and that those persons are expected to make oath to their possessions, and are consequently in great fear lest they should be taxed heavily on their belongings.

The political leaders in the districts where this distrust of the new law prevails are really alarmed as to the effect of its enforcement, when the people who are complaining have a chance to vote next year. It is feared that citizens who deem the law too harsh may try to square accounts and relieve their feelings by voting against the Republican ticket. The Democrats are encouraging the discontent. They are pointing to the fact that the revenue law was opposed by nearly all the Democratic members of the Fortieth General Assembly in the special session which enacted the law. They say the Republicans alone stand responsible for the changes from the old system, and they are saying, gloatingly, "We told you so." All this has resulted in much talk about an extra session of the Legislature next winter, and there is no doubt that the Governor will be asked to call the legislators together for this purpose.

Under the old system of making assessments the poor man whose personal property consisted only of his household furniture was not assessed at all. The man of small business was assessed but lightly, and these men had few complaints of overassessment. The trouble was, however, that while under this method, the poor man was not assessed, the rich man was able to dodge most of the tax which he should have paid. The new law was framed with the intention of compelling each man to schedule for taxation all the property he possessed. The law is being honestly and strictly enforced by the Board of Assessors, and hence the complaints. "This board is endeavoring to enforce the law without fear or favor, and if

we are allowed to complete the work, I think there will be few well-grounded complaints," said Adam Wolf, of the Board of Assessors recently. "The law says plainly that every person shall schedule his or her property under oath, and we are living up to that requirement. At the same time, no hardship will be inflicted on any one. Poor people, who have nothing but their little household goods, need have no uneasiness. In such cases, where the tax when extended would be but a trifle, no assessment will be made. The Deputy Assessors will be instructed along these lines and will also have power to take, when they present the schedule, the affidavits of such persons, so they will not be compelled to lose time in coming to this office. Neither hardship nor injustice will be imposed on any one worthy of consideration."

"On the other hand, the operation of the law has proved that an immense amount of personal property which had heretofore escaped taxation will be brought on the Assessors' books by the new law. For example, a man came in here yesterday and scheduled under oath \$133,000 of personal property. 'What was your assessment on this property last year?' I asked him. 'Not a cent,' he replied. 'The Assessor did not find me, and I did not go looking for him.' That is only one of many similar cases. I do not think the new revenue law will hurt the Republican party. On the contrary, I think the result of the present assessment will prove the wisdom and advantage of the law and will help the party with the people."

Assessor James J. Gray spoke in the same manner as Mr. Wolf regarding the law and its operation and predicted that its results would surprise and please the people.

South Town Assessor Henry Stuckart began his promised attack on the new revenue law on Tuesday by filing in the Circuit Court a petition for a writ of mandamus ordering County Clerk Knopf to deliver to him the assessment books for the year 1899. By tacit agreement, it is understood, the issue will be brought directly before the Supreme Court of the State, which will pass finally upon the constitutionality of the law and determine the power of the new board of assessors to levy the assessments.

Collector Stuckart will be represented in court by Attorneys Shope, Mathis & Barrett and Darrow, Thomas and Thompson. The county will be represented by Attorney Hies, and as soon as an appearance is requested of the board of assessors Attorney John C. Richberg will appear in behalf of the latter to defend the law.

The petition for a mandamus is of vast importance to the taxpayers of the county, as it is the intention of Mr. Stuckart to test the constitutionality of the new law and to have the Supreme Court decide whether the newly elected town assessors of the townships within the limits of the city shall have authority to levy assessments, or whether the power belongs to the new board of assessors which is now making the assessment. County Clerk Knopf will file an answer stating that he turned over the books of the South Town to the newly created board of assessors, as provided by the new law.



HON. JOSEPH KIPLEY,
General Superintendent of Police.

The petitioner will then endeavor to secure an order from the court compelling the board of assessors to turn over the books, and that will bring the issue of the constitutionality of the law squarely before the court.

In view of the fact that the circumstances attending the assessment for the present year demand an immediate adjustment of the machinery of assessment, it is stated that appeal will be taken to the Supreme Court direct. Although the Supreme Court passed upon the vital issues and interpretations of the law in the Hetty Green case, it is asserted that the points in the law most in doubt have not been before the highest tribunal of the State, and that the appeal made by Mr. Stuckart will involve all the constitutional points in the law. The issue upon which Mr. Stuckart proposes to make his chief fight is the provision in the law requiring the appointment of township assessors outside of the city limits as deputies of the board of assessors. Mr. Stuckart will maintain that the law cannot constitutionally make such discriminations between towns in one county.

Another point which will be urged will be against the publication of the schedules and private property of the taxpayers, which, it is claimed, is a distinct violation of personal rights.

One of the best men yet mentioned for appointment to the School Board next June is Mr. John T. Connelly, the efficient manager of the great Youghiogheny and Lehigh Coal Company.

E. B. Moore is one of the most influential Republicans in Cook County, and all admit that he would prove a strong candidate for Governor of Illinois.

Jno. S. Rydell, Z. P. Brosseau, Fred H. Herhold, Washington Porter, John T. Connelly and Miles Devine are talked of for the School Board.

W. O. Johnson, attorney-at-law, 615 The Rookery, is talked of as a good man to appoint to the School Board.

Hon. Simon P. Shope, ex-chief justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois, is talked of as a strong man to nominate on the Democratic ticket for Attorney General next year.

Hon. W. H. Hinrichsen was the best Secretary of State ever elected in Illinois. Consequently he is being urged to run again next year for his old office.

There are many Cook County Republicans who would like to have State's Attorney Chas. S. Deneen secure the Republican nomination for Governor of Illinois.

Mr. Charles H. McGrath, banker and prominent member of the Chicago

Stock Exchange, is talked of for appointment to the School Board next June.

If busy James J. Townsend, the popular stock broker, would consent to serve on the School Board it is believed that Mayor Harrison would gladly appoint him.

Hon. George S. Foster, the well-known lawyer, is said to be slated for appointment to the School Board.

A. C. Powers, manager of the American Mineral Water Co., would make a splendid member of the School Board.

A number of leading Republicans in Cook County and throughout the State are urging Hon. J. W. Suddard to allow the use of his name as a candidate on the Republican State ticket next year.

Ex-Judge Lorin C. Collins is being mentioned for Attorney General and Hon. Francis A. Riddle for Governor.

Hon. Kiekham Scanlan would prove a strong candidate for State's Attorney.

Hon. Robert Redfield may be appointed Assistant Corporation Counsel.

Hon. Clayton E. Crafts is talked of as one of the strongest men the Democrats could nominate next year for Attorney General of Illinois.

Hon. Thomas Edgar is one of the most popular justices in Cook County. He has made a splendid record as police magistrate at Logan Square, and will be reappointed by Mayor Harrison.

Hon. M. A. LaBuy will continue right along holding court at 186 West Madison street, where he has given splendid service to the people.

Justices Eberhardt and Severson will be reappointed as police magistrates, as there is a general demand for their retention.

Hon. Charles B. Pavleek has made a splendid record as member of the Board of West Park Commissioners. Therefore the Eagle desires to congratulate Mr. Pavleek upon his reappointment for the full term of seven years.

William E. Rollo & Son have secured the Western general agency of the Fidelity Fire Insurance Company of Baltimore for the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin, having the Cook County representation as well. J. Ramsay Barry, general manager of the Fidelity, has been in the city for several days looking over the field with a view to entering the company and selecting Western repre-

sentatives. Application has already been made to the departments of all the States except Indiana and the papers for that State are to be made out at once. The company will have its capital of \$500,000 and net surplus of \$250,000 paid in by May 15. Operations in the Western field will be begun as soon as the certificates are received from the various departments.

Justice Q. J. Chott was re-elected President of the West Town Board at the meeting of that body Tuesday and will serve in that capacity six months more. President Chott in addressing the members of the board urged them to attend the meetings regularly and said it was their duty to do so.

The board audited several miscellaneous bills, including \$175 to Griffin & Dwight for rent for April. It was decided to disburse with one of the offices and thus secure a reduction of \$25 a month rent. Graham & Son, bankers, presented a bill for \$105 interest on funds loaned to the West Town and this was ordered paid. The board voted to satisfy a judgment rendered by Judge Tukey against the West Town in favor of Attorney George R. English for \$250 for services.

Justices John C. Everett and John Richardson, now at 125 Clark street, and James C. Martin, now at 128-130 Clark street, will move their offices on May 15 to the National Life Building, and will occupy the entire front portion of the third floor. The leases were closed by Willis & Frankenstein, agents of the building, who are negotiating with other justices now in the Clark street district to move to La Salle street, with the idea of creating a colony of justices there.

Some people wonder why the County Commissioners on last Monday passed a resolution ordering all the contracts on file in the County Comptroller's office up to Jan. 1, 1899, destroyed.

Hon. Henry L. Hertz is again talked of for another term as State Treasurer.

Among those who are coming to the surface as Democratic aspirants for Senator Cullom's seat are Charles K. Ladd of Kewanee, ex-Congressman George Fildan, A. J. Hunter and Ben T. Cable.

It is thought by some the recent enactment extending the term of the Superior Court Judges until next spring will be held unconstitutional, in which event a judicial election will be held in November.

We congratulate the Hon. Charles B. Pavleek, who has made such a fine record as a member of the Board of West Park Commissioners, upon his reappointment for the full term of seven years.

FIFTY-CENT GAS IN NEW YORK

The People of America's Greatest City Get Their Gas for Half a Dollar,

While the People of Chicago Are Obligated to Pay a Rotten Trust One Dollar.

Our Chicago Aldermen, However, Are Afraid to Fight the Robbing Chicago Gas Trust,

And Therefore Our People Will Continue to Be Robbed and Robbed Over Again.

If the Consolidation Law Is Tested by the City, Fifty-cent Gas Will Result.

New York people pay only 50 cents per 1,000 feet for gas.

In New York, where no "consolidation" law is permitted to stand in the way of the people's rights, the gas companies are obliged to keep the streets in repair and are besides glad to get 50 cents per thousand for their commodity.

In Chicago the Gas Trust tears up the streets whenever it wants to; makes the city or the taxpayers repair them; dodges its taxes itself and then charges and receives \$1.10 per 1,000 feet for gas.

How long will the people stand this? Just so long as they elect a supine City Council that refuses to stand up for their rights.

If the City Council will make an honest fight the infamous "consolidation" law behind which the Chicago Gas Trust hides will be knocked out and our people will have 50-cent gas.

The funny part of the New York reduction is that Anthony N. Brady, the head of the New Amsterdam Company, the first New York concern to reduce the price to 50 cents, is a director in the Chicago Gas Trust.

This proves what The Eagle has said right along, that the Chicago Gas Trust could afford to sell gas at a profit for 35 cents per 1,000 feet.

Why don't they do it?

Ask our Aldermen. By edict of the New Amsterdam company on Wednesday last the price of gas is 50 cents per thousand cubic feet. Undercutting the cut of the Consolidated Gas Company was the first definite move of Anthony N. Brady in his new position as general-in-chief of the insurgents in the gas war. The Consolidated and Mutual companies made the price of gas 65 cents to force the Standard and New Amsterdam either into the trust or out of business. Now the New Amsterdam is trying to make them sick of it. The Consolidated and Mutual companies have decided to make any sacrifice to acquire the East River gas tunnel, which is owned by the New Amsterdam company.

That tunnel is capable of carrying pipes from Long Island to Manhattan Island which would bring over twice as much gas daily as has ever been consumed in New York, and gas can be manufactured so much cheaper on Long Island than on Manhattan Island that the magnates of the Consolidated and Mutual companies realize that the tunnel is of the greatest importance to them.

Once having secured possession of the New Amsterdam company and its tunnel it would be a simple matter for them to "squeeze" the Standard company, controlled by Russell Sage, until it agreed to sell out.

How much of the money put up by the Calumet Western will reach the City Council?

Calumet Western is a good name for a bad proposition.

The people of Illinois demand a constitutional convention.

The Gas Trust had an awful nerve to buy up the Legislature and to secure the passage of a measure killing all opposition to it when it had no fran-

chise from Chicago to do business itself.

If the members of our Legislature are to be regularly bribed, and if the tribunals of justice fail through corruption, what will become of popular liberty and popular rights?

With the corporations buying the courts and denying the people justice; with the corporations buying the Legislature and depriving the people of their rights, of what use is a Republic?

Excepting China, it would be hard to find any country where the extortion practiced by the Gas Trust on the people of Chicago would long be tolerated. The Gas Trust robs the people in every way.

It rents gas ranges to poor people at outrageous prices. It then puts on extra pressure scientifically applied and forces air through the pipes at a great rate. This pressure is especially strong evenings when supper is being prepared. The people pay for wind which costs the Trust nothing.

Special assessments for gas lamps go right along, but the poor people do not get the gas on the streets after they pay their assessments. The Gas Trust owns the streets. The city has nothing to do with them.

The Gas Trust is not furnishing one-half the light it should furnish, and for years, according to published reports, it did not furnish 22-candle power to the city.

It is reported that the Gas Trust is getting paid for thousands of lamps which are not in service, and this can be easily verified.

The most baneful, threatening and dangerous influence in public life to-day is in the shape of the all-corrupting corporations, and they are themselves rapidly giving that fact the benefit of public demonstration. The only way to secure our politics, our Legislatures and our courts against their polluting influence is to take the great monopoly they now control out of their hands and administer it as a trust for the people.

The Gas Trust has got a new wrinkle for squeezing the people. It is the "gas range" scheme, furnished by the gas company. It works well in doubling people's expenses.

The gas is of a poor quality and the condition of the gas lamps was never so bad.

When the corporations want a law they buy it. When they want a verdict they buy that, too. Where are we drifting to?

It will not be long before the people settle the Gas Trust. Mark these words.

The Gas Trust middlemen and go-betweens who operated at Springfield two years ago are said to have made a nice sum by "holding out" on their victims, the bribe-taking legislators.